

# **MLA BULLETIN**

**MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME 16 NUMBER 4 SUMMER 1952**

**13TH  
ANNUAL  
MEETING  
REPORTS**

**HALIFAX  
MAY 22-23**

**1952**



## MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. 14 No. 4 Summer 1952

P.O. Box 1027, Halifax, N. S., Canada

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## NEW LOOK FOR THE BULLETIN...

Excellent press coverage of the 1952 Halifax conference prompted the illustrated cover for this BULLETIN. In the upper picture are Dorothy Cullen, 1953 President of MLA, and faithful former editor of the BULLETIN; Peter Grossman 1952 President, and Director of the recently renamed Nova Scotia Provincial Library; Evelyn Campbell, Secretary Treasurer of MLA and Librarian of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation; and Don Redmond, Librarian of Nova Scotia Technical College, new editor of the BULLETIN. (Photo by Norwood, courtesy of the Halifax Chronicle-Herald)

Lower photo is from the Halifax Memorial Library, scene of the 1952 conference (photo by Bollinger). View is of the Children's Department, which is on the main floor: looking northeast, approximately from the children's entrance corner, the charging desk barely shows in the left corner; behind it is a connecting door to the main circulation room.

If comment is favorable on illustrated BULLETINS, we will try to have one page each issue for photos, diagrams, sketches, etc. You librarians with a new building, a poster or display, let the BULLETIN have pictorial evidence! Photos should be 5"x8" or 8"x10" gloss prints; sketches should be half letter size, or letter size if complicated.

Articles, up to 10 or 15 typed pages, are also wanted--on technical, popular or hobby subjects connected with libraries! And regular BULLETIN correspondents, the mainstays of this publication, please continue to send material regularly!

D. A. R.

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FOR SALE: Set of Canada and its Provinces; cloth bound, 23v. complete; asking price \$35. Mrs. E.E. Shaw, Box 211, Bedford, N.S.

WANTED: MLA BULLETIN, v.13 no.1 (Fall 1949) for editor's personal file. If anyone has a set earlier than 1949 for disposal, I would be glad to have it. D. A. Redmond.

## FAMINE TO FLOOD DEPT. ...

Two years ago, MLA members were agitated about the lack of bibliographic tools in the area, particularly LC catalogs. Now the region boasts three copies of the Library of Congress catalogs: at Nova Scotia Research Foundation, Mount St. Vincent College, and the Legislative Library, Fredericton (which has just received the main set covering through 1942). The Nova Scotia Provincial Library is getting the British Museum Catalogue. Now what about this project of checking the LC Catalog for local holdings?

## NEXT BULLETIN...

Have you short wantlists? Publish them in the BULLETIN. Other small ads accepted--no charge. Corrections for the Union List of Sci & Tech Periodicals in the Maritimes will be inserted--but send them to Mr. Boone, Legislative Library, Fredericton, during July for Fall insertion!



## MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE 13th CONFERENCE, HALIFAX, MAY 22-23

The Halifax conference of MLA was the largest yet, with 52 registered, and one of the busiest, with meetings at the Halifax Memorial Library and Mount St. Vincent College, as well as a dinner meeting. Official minutes, amounting to 29 foolscap pages, are too long to publish, and the proceedings which follow are summarized from the minutes, with the approval of the executive.

Business Meeting, Halifax Memorial Library, Thursday, 2 p.m.

Mr. Peter Grossman, 1951-52 President, reviewed past meetings in Halifax as a background for this conference. The first Halifax meeting, in 1939, had been in a progressive atmosphere; the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Commission had been formed in 1938 and increased interest in libraries was beginning in the Maritimes. The second Halifax meeting, in 1945, had been in a wartime atmosphere, but three out of four main resolutions passed at that meeting had borne fruit: the establishment of the Canadian Library Association; the development of the Regional Libraries; and the building of the Halifax Memorial Library. "Today," said the President, "despite the troubles and disturbances in the world, there is still a feeling of confidence in what we are doing, combined with a feeling of cooperation between libraries, particularly in the Maritimes, and perhaps most of all in the small libraries, for they feel they too have something to contribute. The theme of this 1952 conference, might be said to be COOPERATION and CONFIDENCE."

Greetings were read from ALA, sent by Mrs. Loleta D. Ryan; and regrets from the librarians of St. Francis Xavier University that sudden business kept them from attending. Mrs. Patricia Hart moved, seconded by Miss Betty Condon, that minutes of the 1951 conference, as printed in the BULLETIN, be accepted as read; motion was carried. Miss Evelyn Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer, reported a bank balance at May 1952 of \$170.67.

The matter of a clipping service was reported on by Miss Dorothy Cullen, and the meeting left decision in the hands of the MLA executive, to be based on discussion at the 1952 CLA conference.

Letters were read from the Prime Minister, thanking the Association for its letter on the establishment of a national library; and from Miss Elizabeth Norton conveying greetings from CLA, and mentioning the CLA Development Fund. Discussion of this fund was left for the Friday morning meeting on MLA plans.

Overdue memberships in CLA were the subject of a letter from Frederick D. Cole, and the Secretary-Treasurer urged all overdue members to reinstate themselves, as CLA membership is a matter of concern to all Canadian librarians. At a suggestion contained in a letter from Miss Morton, greetings to the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Ontario Library Association (London, May 25-27) were moved and seconded by Miss Ruby Wallace and Miss Alberta Letts, and unanimously passed.

Reports from the Provinces: Prince Edward Island

Miss Dorothy Cullen, Vice-President for P.E.I., reported on the year's activities. Father Allan MacDonald, a 1951 graduate of the Toronto library school, became librarian of St. Dunstan's University. A microfilm reader and



films of early P.E.I. newspapers have been acquired and will have a special room in the Legislative Library along with bound files of current papers.

An Alberton branch library opened in June 1951—an attractive one-room structure adaptable for small meetings and film showings—and Alberton's example has led Summerside to consider erecting a library.

A unique publicity effort in the Fall was a newspaper broadside sheet outlining library facilities, branch hours, and listing a few books on carpentry, domestic arts, current history, etc. These were distributed to rural householders by arrangement with the Post Office, and brought inquiries as well as requests for the books listed.

An attractive children's corner was divided off in the Charlottetown Library this Spring, using counter-type shelving. Over a thousand children's books were placed there, and a teen-age section was begun. School library circulation continued to be a large part of the work of the P.E.I. Libraries, and a most effective one. Attractive children's books win readers, whereas some adult books need more promotion than it is possible to give.

#### Report from New Brunswick

Miss Betty Condon, Vice-President for New Brunswick, reported on 1951. The New Brunswick Library Association was formed to examine provincial library problems. In February a New Brunswick Library Week was observed with displays, talks, radio programs, newspaper features and other publicity. In March Mr. Peter Grossman spoke to the Legislative Library Committee in connection with a survey of New Brunswick for regional library service. The annual meeting of NEHA was held in Fredericton on May 10, and new officers elected:

President, Mrs. J. G. Hart, Saint John  
Vice-President, Miss Betty Condon, Moncton  
Secretary, Mr. A. Robert Rogers, Fredericton.

A new library in Newcastle, presented to the town by Lord Beaverbrook, is to open in the Fall. House in his childhood home, the old Presbyterian Manse, it is being organized by Miss Louise Manny. The two-year-old Grand Falls Library is doing fine work; the circulation of children's books is excellent and the women who organized the library are to be congratulated. A new library at Centerville is providing much-needed service. Its opening was well attended, despite the winter's worst storm, and books are circulating very well. The Point de Bute Library, run by the Women's Institute, is growing rapidly and residents are making full use of it.

Campbellton is making preliminary plans for a public library. A library opened in the Petitcodiac Regional High School in October and has had many users. In Milltown school, a community library under Mr. Kingett has been established. In all, the library picture in New Brunswick is improving rapidly and we look forward to great things in the near future.

#### Report from Nova Scotia

Miss Dorothy MacKay, Vice-President for Nova Scotia, reported a slowly but steadily expanding library development. Halifax alone has seen the establishment of two new libraries, rebuilding of another which had been destroyed by fire, and transfer of two others to new buildings.



In the Regional Libraries, Mr. Grossman reported satisfactory progress despite inroads of matrimony. Headquarters is now called the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. An Act of the 1952 session of the Legislature abolished the Regional Libraries Commission which had actually gone out of existence some years ago, and made legal provision for present and probable future activities.

After the three-year demonstration period in the Annapolis Valley Region, Miss Alberta Letts has returned to Halifax as assistant director at headquarters. Miss Janet Turner is assistant cataloger at Halifax, and Mr. Grossman would appreciate any pressure that would keep her in Nova Scotia. Headquarters reference service continues to expand, with a growing flow of interlibrary loans and the Union Catalog assuming form. The reference department is experimenting with a portable microfilm reader, but it is too early to judge the value of this project.

Library services in the Annapolis Valley, now directed by Miss Diana Lockhart, were extended last summer to include Berwick, while Annapolis Royal headquarters moved to more spacious accommodation in a building once remembered as the "Bag House".

In Cape Breton, Miss Ruby Wallace is waging valiant and winning battle despite staff losses, inadequate bookstock and increasing demands. Branch libraries and the bookmobile now give service throughout Cape Breton County, except for Sydney Mines. Branches were opened in Florence and Reserve Mines, and plans are underway to remodel the old Bank of Montreal building for the Glace Bay library. In 1951, Cape Breton County circulated 186,900 books, and Sydney in addition circulated 890 films. Miss Betty Morris is leaving Cape Breton for the Hamilton Public Library; Mr. Stanley MacDougall will become librarian of the Pictou region; and Mr. and Mrs. James MacEacheron are going to Halifax where Mr. MacEacheron will join the Adult Education Division. Miss Wallace's annual report is well worth reading.

The Colchester-East Hants Library has opened branches in Tatamagouche and Great Village. Miss Margaret Rainforth was appointed bookmobile librarian in this region in September.

The Pictou Regional Library despite insufficient bookstock in the initial period has survived its first year. The librarian, Mrs. Wheeler (Margaret Maxwell at last year's conference) is leaving for Quebec, and Miss Patricia O'Neill is now bookmobile librarian in this area.

The opening of the Halifax Memorial Library on Nov. 12, 1951, was the big event of the year in Halifax library affairs. Miss Mary Cameron's first annual report, for 1951, has some fascinating figures. The first day's circulation was 1480 books. There is probably not a library in Canada that has a greater circulation per volume of its collection than the H.M.L. In 35 days of public operation in 1951, almost the equivalent of the entire bookstock circulated. As soon as the library opened it was evident that Halifax wanted a library and intended to use it. Citizens expected and demanded service on a par with libraries which had been half a century in the making, those staffed with a personnel of forty or more. This has meant that the staff, whether professional or clerical, has had to devote much of its time to clerical and routine duties. As yet ten to fifteen thousand old books from the Citizens' Free Library are waiting for decision on salvaging or scrapping.

Since the 1951 report was issued, Miss Cameron has given additional figures. By the end of April, a fully constituted library board was set up for the management of the library. At the same time the City Council was negotiating with the Province for participation in the Nova Scotia system of re-



gional libraries. At the end of April (and note this is from the opening in November) total circulation was 100,954 books, of which 36,718 were juvenile. Registration was 10,056, of which 2654 were registered in the children's department. There were 28,281 volumes cataloged, and 1613 reference questions had been asked and answered. A fulltime staff of 13 has provided this service with help from part-time high school and university students. By July, a library school graduate will be taken on in the Reference Department, and by September it is hoped an additional professional librarian can be added to the Circulation Department.

In the special libraries field there is a new library in the Maritime Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council, with Miss Morven Crombie as librarian. This library is primarily intended to assist the research work in the laboratory but is by no means exclusively for use of the staff. The collection is being acquired with the idea of augmenting the scientific literature of the Maritimes rather than duplicating existing resources. At present 115 periodicals are received--35 of them not taken by Dalhousie, and 19 not received by any other library in the Maritimes. Long and important back files are being acquired.

The Nova Scotia Research Foundation Library reports increased use of its Library of Congress printed catalog by librarians in Halifax. The Foundation has been very generous with financial assistance to the library cause, and our gratitude goes to them for assistance in printing the Union List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in Libraries of the Maritime Provinces, as well as the pamphlet "You Can Be a Librarian". Last year we had the same assistance with the directory of libraries in the Halifax area. The Research Foundation Library has also been exceedingly generous in making photostats for libraries in the area. The literature search service and the preparation of selected bibliographies has been found most useful by research workers.

The Naval Research Establishment Library hopes to move to new quarters in Dartmouth by the first of June.

In the college and university library field, Mount St. Vincent began fulltime service in their new building in September with Sister Francis de Sales, Sister Francis Dolores and student assistants making up the staff. The 28,000 volumes on their shelves show the magnificent response to their appeal for books after the MSV library was destroyed by fire in February 1951. The MacDonald collection of rare books, also completely destroyed, has been started again by Mr. MacDonald and now contains over 2000 volumes of rare editions and fine bindings. The School of Library Science occupies the entire first floor of the spacious library wing in the new building.

The Nova Scotia Technical College Library has moved into 1800 square feet of new quarters in the new MacDonald Laboratories Building. Mr. Redmond reports that the library is to a steadily growing extent being integrated into the instructional program of the college. This is being accomplished through increased direction of students to the library by instructors, and through the librarian's course in Technical Literature introduced in the Fall of 1951. Despite decreased registration the use of the library has increased. A guide booklet, "What's In The Library?" is available on request, as is illustrative material from the Technical Literature course.

Acadia University Library reported three staff changes during the year. Miss Mary Gates resigned at the end of November, and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Holman joined the staff, from library positions in Ottawa, and are busy cataloging and recataloging.



St. Francis Xavier reports special efforts with posters and display racks to interest students in books of a general nature, with encouraging results. The Library has also made notable progress in binding journals, and notes good use made of its foreign language records.

The library at St. Mary's University moved in November to the new building on Robie St. The reading room and stack are not yet ready for general use but are slated for completion within the year.

At Dalhousie University, the administration and business offices have been moved from the first floor of the Library to the new Arts Building, but redecoration and possibly structural changes are necessary before moving any part of the library to that floor. Last Fall Miss MacKay and Miss Murray gave new students instruction in the use of the library; the groups, each coming once, were received for several weeks, and the sessions were well worth while. The Law Library is being moved to the whole second floor of the newly decorated Law Building (former Arts Building) on the Studley Campus. A part-time law librarian will give the remainder of her time to the university library.

Since the opening of postgraduate courses in medicine, demands have increased on the reference facilities of the Medical-Dental Library. Miss Allan has done considerable literature searching for correspondence courses and research projects. Extensive weeding was carried out by Miss Allan and a part-time assistant under direction of the department heads. Dr. J. G. Aldous, the Honorary Librarian, has prepared an index to the Proceedings and Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science.

A scheme is being worked out whereby the library committees of the Victoria General and Camp Hill Hospitals will consult with the Medical Library Committee before purchasing books. This will prevent unnecessary duplication. The Medical Library has taken part in a survey conducted by the Medical Library Association Committee on criteria for medical school libraries. The survey covered all phases of library work: library staff, clientele, other medical libraries available to students and staff, library service, and holdings in books and journals. Libraries were asked to check a list of books published since 1940, and a list of journals currently received. The Medical Library had 220 of the 447 books listed, and 225 of the 495 journals.

Three recruits for the library profession from Nova Scotia will be going to library schools in the Fall: Misses Jean McLeod, Anna Ruth Harris, and Margaret Martin.

Miss MacKay mentioned with regret the absence, due to illness, of Sister Francis de Sales from the conference. The meeting expressed deep concern, and on motion of Mrs. M. C. Vernon, seconded by Mr. Redmond, the Secretary was instructed to send flowers to Sister Francis de Sales.

#### MLA Committee Reports for 1951-52

Miss Gladys Black, chairman of a committee to edit a recruiting pamphlet, reported that 800 copies of "You Can Be a Librarian" had been distributed to Maritime colleges and schools, and to library schools. Thanks were due to Mr. Grossman, Mr. G. E. Perry, Mr. Redmond, Miss Jean McLeod, for advice and assistance in production; other members of the committee were Mrs. Patricia Hart and Mrs. Millie MacLaren. Mrs. Hart reported great interest in the pamphlet from the public schools of Saint John.

Miss Evelyn Campbell reported that the Union List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals project of MLA had been successfully carried out. The catalog was not a revision of the 1936 list edited by Dr. Ernest Hess and published by the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, but a completely new catalog. Because of the national union list now in preparation by the National Research Council, no extensive revision of the Maritime catalog will be made. However, addenda and errata will be published in the Fall MLA BULLETIN, and these will be printed on sheets to be distributed to the cooperating libraries. Entries will be added from one or two additional libraries. Corrections are to be sent to Mr. Boone at the Legislative Library, Fredericton.

#### Certification Committee Report and Recommendation

Miss Ruby Wallace, chairman of the Certification Committee, summarized the previous year's findings:

##### Value of certification

- 1) Establishment of a professional standard would be of value to libraries and librarians.
- 2) Assurance to recruits that there is a professional standard.
- 3) Encouragement to nonprofessional workers to take professional training.
- 4) A plan for the future, taking into consideration those who have given valuable service but have no professional training, which would prevent the trial-and-error method of librarianship in the future.

##### Method of certification

By legislation with guidance from the library association. Standards to be set up by the CLA Public Library Standards Committee.

The Committee on Certification recommended: "As the time seems ripe for certification, especially in Nova Scotia, it is recommended that the Maritime Library Association consider placing on record a certification plan that might be adopted by each province when the need for such a plan should arise."

#### Recommended Certification Plan

##### Certification board

A certification board consisting of five members to be appointed by the Provincial Government, the personnel being according to recommendations of the Provincial Library Association, the purpose of the Board being the receiving of applications and issuing of certificates of librarianship according to the following qualifications.

##### Qualifications

###### Grade A librarians:

- 1) A bachelor's degree from a recognized university and a master's degree in librarianship in addition to a bachelor's degree in librarianship from an approved library school; or
- 2) A master's degree from a recognized university and a bachelor's degree in librarianship from an approved library school; or
- 3) A master's degree from a recognized university and a diploma or certificate in librarianship from an approved library school which does not grant a degree.



**Grade B librarians:**

- 1) A bachelor's degree from a recognized university and a bachelor's degree in librarianship from an approved library school; or
- 2) A bachelor's degree from a recognized university and a master's degree in librarianship in lieu of a bachelor's degree in librarianship from an approved library school; or
- 3) A bachelor's degree from a recognized university and a diploma or certificate in librarianship from an approved library school which does not grant a degree.

**Grade C Library assistant or Library worker:**

- 1) A bachelor's degree from a recognized university and two years' experience in a library approved by the certification committee; or
- 2) Successful completion of two full years at a recognized university, a Grade A Teacher's Certificate and five years' experience in a library approved by the certification committee.

**Grade D Library assistant or Library worker:**

Grade XI or higher and five years' experience in a library approved by the certification committee.

**Special cases certified**

The certification committee would give consideration to such cases as are not covered by the above regulations and be empowered to grant special certificates on its findings.

**Review of plan**

The Provincial Library Association would review the certification regulations and methods of adoption once in three years.

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Miss Wallace noted that the legislation required to implement the report would have to be different for each province. Mr. Grossman read Miss Elizabeth Morton's comments on the report, which had been incorporated into the report. There was general discussion, and suggestions advanced were incorporated into the report as it appears above. Miss Barbara Murray asked for clarification of the terms "recognised university" and "approved library school" as used in the report. Mr. Grossman said he believed the government issued a list of universities it accepts as accredited. Sister Francis Dolores mentioned the handbook issued by the National Conference of Canadian Universities. Mrs. Hart said CLA is planning to set up standards, and that until these standards were set up, the various certification boards would act.

Moved by Miss Ruby Wallace, seconded by Sister Francis Dolores, the meeting carried a motion template on record that this certification plan should be adopted in each province. Mr. Redmond asked if this recommendation should be brought to the attention of each provincial government by the MLA. Mr. Grossman replied that it might better be brought to the attention of the individual provincial governments by the individual provincial library associations which, if not already formed as in the case of New Brunswick, could be formed for the purpose of bringing the resolution to the attention of the various governments at a favorable time. The business meeting then adjourned.

**Dinner Meeting, Lord Nelson Hotel, May 22, 7 p.m.**

The Department of Education of Nova Scotia entertained the conference delegates at dinner. Speaker of the evening was Mr. Roy Laurence, Clerk of the Legislature of Nova Scotia.

Interlibrary Loan Problems, Halifax Memorial Library, May 23, 9.30 a.m.

Miss Gladys Black, reference librarian of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, had during the Spring distributed a questionnaire on interlibrary loan and reference problems, which follows.

- I. Have you a fixed policy or definite set of rules for interlibrary loan?  
Or do you consider each request as it comes?
- II. Have you restrictions (outline them) on:
  - 1) Books which may be lent--e.g. special collections which may or may not be lent; special subjects which may or may not be lent; subjects or titles which may not be lent during term or other special times?
  - 2) The loan of periodicals, single issues or bound volumes?
  - 3) The use of books or periodicals--e.g. restricted always, or in special cases, to use within the borrowing library?
  - 4) Libraries to which you will lend, and from which you request loans, e.g. only your own type?
- III. Have you a set time limit on books lent? Does it vary with kind of book lent? Is it flexible? Or nonexistent?
- IV. What is your policy regarding cost of mailing loans, etc.?
- V. Have you an interlibrary loan form which you use (and would like other libraries to use) in requesting and complying with requests for loans? Or do you prefer making requests informally? If you have a form, would you send a sample?
- VI. How does your interlibrary loan service tie in with your reference service? Do you lend, and borrow, only when a definite author and/or title is requested? Or do you do subject research for other libraries, and ask such research of them? Do you do any copying of materials, such as making photostats?

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Miss Black summarized the replies to the questionnaire. Three libraries only had definite rules on interlibrary loans, and Mr. Rogers summarized the University of New Brunswick's rules. At the beginning of each term, copies of the regulations are sent to each faculty member. Permitted to borrow are UNB graduates and the faculty engaged in research, though they do on occasion lend to others doing research work, e.g. government employees. In accordance with the ALA code, borrowed material may be used only within the UNB library. Request for renewal is made in advance.

Most libraries indicated they had some books which were not lent--e.g. Canadiana and rare books. There was wide divergence regarding periodicals: some lend only bound periodicals, some only single issues, some are not anxious to lend periodicals at all, others lend both bound and loose periodicals. The Halifax Memorial Library will under certain conditions lend bound or unbound periodicals within the city, but not outside; they prefer to have the required article photostated at the borrowing library's expense. This policy was in effect because individual borrowers felt aggrieved if something they wanted was "lent out" when they individually could not borrow.

Regarding loan of single and recent issues versus loan of bound periodicals, Miss Campbell said that in special libraries such as the Research Foundation, and probably the Medical-Dental Library, it was necessary to lend research workers the current numbers of magazines to expedite their work, and



often these loans were not returned for a considerable time; whereas probably in public library work it was necessary to consider the interests of the public over a long period of years rather than the interests of the individual borrower of the moment. Individual policy must suit the circumstances, and there could be no hard and fast rules. Mrs. Hart added that in a public library, material must be on the spot, whereas in university and special libraries material might wait on two or three week loans.

Miss Black mentioned the proposed ALA 1952 Code, which states that it is the prerogative of the lending library to decide on fragility, uniqueness of the material, rather than imposing rigid categories of type of material, for how long and under what conditions material may be lent. Most libraries do specify when loaned material should be used within the borrowing library. Acadia leaves it to the borrowing library to judge, except in cases of rare material, e.g. theses. Acadia students must use borrowed material in the library, but this is not insisted on for faculty members unless the borrowing library has specially requested it. UNB informs faculty that borrowed books must be used within the library.

At Dalhousie, said Miss MacKay, no restrictions are imposed when books are lent to other libraries. Miss Cameron said the Halifax Memorial Library lent, because they also wanted to borrow, and felt that interlibrary loan policy should be left to the discretion of the individual lending and borrowing library; there should not be too many rigid rules of procedure. Mrs. Vernon agreed that every librarian knows what can and cannot be lent from one's own library, and what is important to it. Mr. Ganong pointed out that the faculty must sometimes be reminded that books available for purchase should not be borrowed from other libraries.

The individual borrower's character makes some difference in the library's willingness to allow an interlibrary loan out of the borrowing library, Mrs. Hart pointed out; but of course the borrowing library must abide by the lending library's restrictions if made.

Two weeks is the most usual time limit on interlibrary loans; but since this is counted from the time the borrower receives the item until he sends it back, it is usually three weeks in practice. The Technical College puts a nominal one-month limit on the loan, which gives a basis for expecting the book back, and a "jumping-off place" for overdue notices; but if material was likely to be needed at the college during the loan period, it was preferable to send photostats instead. Miss Murray pointed out that an interlibrary loan should not be considered any more important, regarding time limits or in any other way, than the loan of a book over the counter; the meeting generally agreed. Acadia University Library checks with the department concerned before lending a book, which gives some idea of the current need for the item.

Most libraries have a generous policy regarding postage for loans, but some libraries request the return of postage costs. Mr. Rogers felt the borrowing library should pay costs both ways, while Miss MacKay said Dalhousie would be out a substantial amount if the borrowing library did not pay all costs. Miss Letts agreed with Miss Cameron that it is a matter of decision, necessity and courtesy on the part of individual libraries.

Samples of interlibrary loan forms from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Nova Scotia Technical College and University of New Brunswick were shown. The Provincial Library and regional system use a multiple-slip form 3"x5" in five copies. The Technical College uses the new ALA standard form 5"x8", for single typing and use in a window envelope. UNB uses a series of mimeographed postcards.



The second Friday morning session was divided into three interest groups:  
 1) General discussion of MLA policies and plans (Peter Grossman, chairman);  
 2) Cataloging (Sister Francis Dolores, chairman); 3) Circulation (Mary Falconer, chairman).

#### I. MLA Policies and Plans, May 23, 11 a.m.

Mr. Peter Grossman, chairman; 15 present.

Mr. Grossman discussed the 1954 CLA conference, to be held in Halifax at the Nova Scotian Hotel. While dates are not settled, late June (23-25) was held desirable, and this will be settled at the CLA Council meeting in Banff before the 1952 conference. Miss Culton of the New Brunswick Department of Education requested that a discussion of school libraries be put on the 1954 agenda.

A letter was read from Mr. Lort of the Vancouver Regional Libraries asking that MLA communicate with the National Film Board, stressing the need for a new film on libraries at the national level. Mrs. Hart mentioned that the film "Library Organisation" was valuable when she was discussing the library at meetings. It was agreed that the proposed film should be on all types of libraries and on a broad basis. Mr. Rogers suggested 35mm as well as 16mm versions, for use in commercial theaters as well as film groups. It was generally agreed that a film useful in educational and promotional library work might not necessarily be usable for general movie audiences. CLA will set up a committee to discuss the matter of films. It was moved by Mrs. Hart, seconded by Miss Cameron, that letters be sent to the NFB, Dr. A. W. Trucman, Maritime representative of the NFB, and Hon. R. H. Winters, the Minister from Nova Scotia, under whom the NFB comes, after the CLA reports are read and discussed; the motion was carried, and the following resolution by Miss Cullen, seconded by Miss MacKay, was passed:

"RESOLVED that the MLA strongly recommend the production by the National Film Board of Canada, of a film dealing with library service throughout Canada."

The CLA Development Fund was discussed, and the meeting approved a motion by Miss Cameron, seconded by Mrs. Vernon, that MLA take out Contributing Membership in CLA, at \$25 a year, to be continued as long as it is financially possible.

In discussion of book publishing problems, general dissatisfaction was felt on book prices, deliveries, stock problems, etc. The meeting approved a motion by Mrs. Hart, seconded by Miss Cameron, that MLA request CLA to form a representative committee to meet with a committee representing all Canadian publishers to discuss book problems of mutual concern.

The date of the 1953 MLA conference was left to decision of the executive, with a date late in June generally satisfactory. The group then adjourned.

#### II. Cataloging, May 23, 11 a.m.

Sister Francis Dolores, chairman; 22 present.

The chairman remarked on the wide variety of libraries represented, and the scope for wide discussion among them. The last two years had seen tremendous changes in cataloging procedures and rules. Andrew Osborn at Harvard in 1941 had discussed a "Crisis in cataloging", saying that perfectionist cataloging was too expensive and led to huge arrears. Re-evaluation was



needed from the aspect of each individual library. Osborn distinguished three grades of cataloging: standard, simplified, and detailed. The new Library of Congress Rules for descriptive cataloging have reflected this, and have greatly simplified LC cards. The new edition of Dewey would also cause argument. This meeting would therefore be devoted to discussion of various current problems.

The chairman remarked that the project of a standard simplified cataloging code for the small library, set up by MIA under Mr. Boone, had not proved feasible because of the variety of libraries in the area. Mr. Boone then mentioned some problems which had occurred to him and asked for comment.

First, full names and dates in main entry. Were they kept up to date? Were authority cards kept? Were Canadian and local writers a special responsibility for libraries in this area?

The "no-conflict" entry used by LC was mentioned by Mr. Redmond; in this, searching for full name and dates is not done if the entry does not conflict with any already in the catalog. Sister Francis Dolores agreed that full entry was seldom necessary for trade books; but rare books, theses, etc., were exceptions. The Provincial Library uses full names but no dates, and has a responsibility to the regional libraries, and especially for Maritime writers, according to Miss Cummings and Miss Black. Dates were used when there is a conflict as between father and son. Full data are needed if cataloged Canadians are to be a useful bibliographic tool.

Mr. Ganong and Miss Lewis suggested adding death dates only to one card under the main entry for a given author, when they are later found. Name authority files were little used and little approved.

Second problem for discussion, the new 15th edition of Dewey, was brought up by the chairman. All but three of those present used Dewey. The 14th and 15th editions conflict, and the chairman said articles in current library journals are attacking the 15th edition. The phonetic spelling and old terminology were against the 14th edition, but in the 15th the pendulum had swung violently the other way.

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library is using the expansions in the 14th edition to supplement the 15th for general cataloging, and Miss Black is using the 14th edition supplemented by the 15th for the reference collection at headquarters. Miss Black is making a selective classed catalog from the Regional Union Catalog; outside contributing libraries assign Dewey numbers to the cards they send in. LC cards give both edition numbers if different, and the Provincial Library will get LC cards for the reference collection.

When there is a conflict between editions, general sentiment was against changing the numbers on all older books. Miss Cummings makes a "Do not use" or other penciled note in the 15th edition. For instance, for 380.9, commercial geography, now changed to 911.3, they note "Use 380.9" in the new edition and do not change over.

The library schools have not adopted any policy about the new edition of Dewey, although they are teaching it, said Sister Francis Dolores. The LC Cataloging Service bulletin had summed up resemblances and differences (reprinted in the March 1952 CLA Bulletin) but made no attempt to evaluate.

Miss Clare said the 15th edition had good points, and the Halifax Memorial Library used it first. They had the advantage of no large backlog of cataloged books to change. It was important in all cases to classify carefully and to put related material together.



The abridged edition of Dewey (1945) was useful for libraries up to perhaps 10,000 volumes, Mr. Redmond suggested, and Sister Francis Dolores agreed that the notes in the abridged edition were much clearer than the larger edition. Many libraries would continue to use both 14th and 15th editions, and though the 14th edition would eventually be no longer available, it would be outdated by advances in technology, history, etc.

Subject headings problems, and the need to go beyond the Sears list, were introduced by the chairman. Miss Allan described the Dalhousie Medical Library practice of using LC cards and subject headings from the Army Medical Library catalogs and the Index Medicus. A card authority file gave the source of each heading used; and though a new LC classification for medicine (R) was soon to appear, LC headings were not likely ever to be satisfactory.

When the system of filing subject headings is changed, as in the latest edition of the Sears list, did one change all the cards and filing, the chairman asked. Mr. Redmond said this was desirable, as when the Library of Congress recently changed inversions to phrase headings, e.g. CONCRETE, REINFORCED (which the Technical College used as CONCRETE--REINFORCED) to REINFORCED CONCRETE. Sister Francis Dolores objected that two alphabets of subdivisions might creep into the catalog when a change was made, and Mr. Boone pointed out a difference between dash and comma subdivision (between true sub-division and inversion). Miss Black objected that the public didn't know the difference.

Miss Oakley asked what was present practice for added entries such as editor and translator cards. In revising the Dalhousie catalog, many added entry cards were being removed. Mr. Redmond suggested that the freshman's approach to these entries would be a criterion of usefulness, and Miss Oakley replied that students looked for classics under translators.

When copyright date varies from imprint date, Miss Cummings said in reply to a query by Mr. Boone, the Provincial Library uses the latest copyright date. Mr. Boone pointed out that LC gives both dates.

Opinion about the new LC Rules for descriptive cataloging was favorable, and particularly that the new practice in capitalization looked better. The session then adjourned.

### III. Circulation, May 23, 11 a.m.

Miss Mary Falconer, chairman; 15 present.

Staff training was the first topic, introduced by the chairman. This had been a great difficulty in the Halifax Memorial Library where many non-librarians had to be employed. Could successful training best be given by a professional person or by a clerk closer in age and experience to the person being trained? It was her opinion that in matters of routine it was not necessary to have a professional, and she asked if other librarians had material that could be read by a beginner. Miss Letts thought a professional librarian might be frightening to a timid beginner, and that not too much should be attempted in the beginning.

Miss Dobson and Miss Condon agreed that a staff representative was a good idea, so that everyone knew of changes in operations.

Miss Falconer had found group teaching quicker than individual instruction, but it was difficult to get the group together.



Binding problems were discussed. Miss Falconer showed samples of bindings on quite new books which were stained, soiled and oily-looking, not by faults of borrowers, but through some material used in the binding. The Halifax Memorial Library had complained about it to various book-agents. Miss Wallace said that in Sydney the dust-jackets are used on such books, but do not stand up long, and suggested an MLA resolution complaining to the manufacturers of the books. Miss Letts said such a resolution would be brought up at the CLA conference, and that such a matter could well be considered by a liaison committee between CLA and the book publishers.

Plastic covers were excellent, especially for children's books, but were expensive (about \$8 per hundred, plus 37% duty) according to Miss Falconer and Miss Currie. Reynolds Publishing Co. in Canada were experimenting, said Miss Condon. The meeting agreed that all would be interested in plastic covers at a "reasonable price"; and Miss Wallace suggested that pooled orders might interest a Canadian manufacturer. Wearing qualities of liquid plastic coatings are satisfactory, said Miss Falconer. This can be purchased from Brodart Inc., 59 E. Alpine St., Newark 5, N.J., at 12 bottles for \$21.06 plus 25% duty, or from Gaylord Bros Inc. Brown Bros. may feature it in their next catalog.

The meeting passed a resolution, moved by Miss Letts and seconded by Miss Wallace, directed to CLA, that a method of cooperation be worked out between CLA and the book publishers. Information discovered regarding plastic covers could be pooled later, it was decided.

Publicity and public relations were discussed. It was decided that library operations in the Maritimes were too new to have a backlog of posters for exchange. The Moncton library purchased small posters to order for \$1.50 each.

Booklists made up for the Halifax Memorial Library were shown; these are made up from the cataloging records and are most popular. The regional libraries have a different problem, because a group of books is never all together in the same place.

For summer reading, both the Halifax Memorial Library and the Moncton Public Library intend to increase the number of books allowed out per person. Miss Wallace said people like the generous policy, and that she had little trouble with overdue books. The Halifax Memorial Library intended to lengthen the time limit on fiction, at present mostly seven days. The regional libraries had done away with the seven-day limit and it appeared to be working well. Miss Condon said that elderly people often cannot read quickly and she altered the time limit to suit the individual. Miss Falconer said she has had a bad time with overdue books and perhaps extension of the time limit might help.

#### Final Session, Mount St. Vincent College Library, May 23, 2 p.m.

The Resolutions Committee (Miss Diana Lockhart, chairman; Miss Frances MacMillan; Mr. A. R. Rogers) presented the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

RESOLVED THAT the thanks of the Association go to the Department of Education for the excellent dinner at the Lord Nelson Hotel;

THAT the thanks of the Association go to Mr. R. A. Laurence for speaking to the delegates at dinner;

THAT the thanks of the Association go to Mount St. Vincent College for their generous hospitality;

THAT the thanks of the Association go to the press and radio organiza-



tions for their coverage of the Association's activities and the activities of libraries in the Maritimes generally; and that letters of thanks be sent in particular to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, to Mrs. Abbie Lane, and to Mr. Frank W. Doyle.

Moved by Mrs. Hart and seconded by Miss Cameron, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the Maritime Library Association request the Canadian Library Association to form a representative committee to meet with a committee representing all Canadian publishers to discuss book problems of mutual concern.

Moved by Miss Cameron, seconded by Mrs. Vernon, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the Maritime Library Association take out a Contributing Membership in the Canadian Library Association.

After general discussion, since the matter will come up for discussion at the 1952 CLA conference, and upon motion by Miss Cullen, seconded by Miss MacKay, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Maritime Library Association strongly recommends the production by the National Film Board of Canada of a film dealing with library service throughout Canada.

#### Library School Curricula: Panel Discussion

Mrs. Patricia Hart, chairman, introduced the discussion by saying that in the old days there were a few definite library school subjects—cataloging, classification, etc., but that many changes had recently been made and there seemed to be a difference of opinion among library schools as to where to put the emphasis.

Miss Mary Cameron, giving the public library point of view, said libraries were obviously not satisfied with the graduates they are getting from library schools. While public libraries want library school graduates, they are often critical of the training these graduates have received. She commended the library schools for their honest assessment of their graduates when asked for an opinion concerning the merits of a candidate. Miss Cameron had asked a number of recent graduates their opinion of the training they had received, and the general answer was that they had had to spend too much time on "fiddling detail" and not enough on academic subjects. Miss Cameron favored six months' preliminary apprenticeship in a library before attending library school, so that the school could spend less time on routine procedure and more time on essentials.

Mr. A. R. Rogers spoke for the universities and also described the English system of training librarians. In the main, the difference between North American and British methods is that in Britain the individual candidate is examined by the Library Association, whereas here the tendency is to leave each library school free to experiment with various courses. For a long time there was only one library school in England, at the University of London, and an Honours degree, usually in languages, was required for entrance. Since the last war a number of other schools, mostly attached to technical colleges rather than universities, have been established to prepare candidates for the Library Association examinations. The University of London course is rather more academic than the North American schools generally, with more general knowledge and less attention to specific details.



The UNB group felt that education for librarianship should begin early in university life, so that the university course could emphasize languages, for example. Group survey courses were desirable in the humanities, the social sciences, the physical and applied sciences, and an attempt should be made to integrate the whole body of knowledge for the student's viewpoint, in the broad and central academic tradition. They did not recommend a course in librarianship prior to the B.A. Mr. Rogers felt the M.L.S. degree was not to be recommended for one year's postgraduate work; it should represent something higher, in order not to devalue the Ph.D.

On courses, his group divided into two schools of thought. One urged greater specialization, greater choice of courses and more advanced courses in certain fields such as cataloging, and that certain schools specialize, e.g. Toronto in public libraries, McGill in university and special libraries. The other group urged emphasis on a more general view of things, and demanded a "philosophy of librarianship" which might be interpreted as:

- a) the subject as a whole, and interrelation of its parts;
- b) its relationship to other branches of knowledge;
- c) the rôle of books and libraries in the history of civilization;
- d) a code of professional ethics;
- e) imagination, judgment, and commonsense.

The core of the curriculum should be bibliography, and the study of the book as the bearer of culture. Overlapping is desirable if it leads to integration, and some subjects could and should be taught in close conjunction, e.g. reference work and book selection.

Miss Shirley Elliott described some American practice in library schools. The American curricula appeared to be in a state of experimentation, which was good as long as it did not continue too long. Rather than try to give a general survey, Miss Elliott took two schools, Columbia and Simmons, as examples. Simmons is the more conservative of the two. Both schools grant an M.S. degree for one full year of work plus a summer session, after the B.A.

At Simmons, for the summer session the M.S. curriculum included Communications, Modern book publishing and publishers, Public relations sources and media, or School library service. At the regular session, courses included The library as a social institution, Reference methods, Literature of the social sciences, Literature of the humanities, Principles of cataloging and classification, Applied cataloging and classification. Elective courses included Theory of administration, Literature of science and technology, Guidance of adult readers, Bibliographical and research methods, Library service to children, Guidance of young readers, Book arts, Research and bibliographic method in subject fields, Organisation and administration of special libraries.

At Columbia, the course for the M.S. degree for students without previous professional training takes two terms plus one summer session. The curriculum includes: Books and libraries in the growth of civilization, Bookmaking and publishing, Foundations of reading and communication, Introduction to bibliography, Library programs and plans, Advisory services, Technical services, Information services, Organisation of materials for use, Literature in (a) social sciences (b) humanities (c) science. There is also an M.S. degree for students with previous professional training, and a Ph.D., which is a course apart. The general trend seems to be, Miss Elliott said, to make the training course longer than in the past.



Sister Francis Dolores, speaking for the Mount St. Vincent College library school in the absence of Sister Francis de Sales, said the MSV revised curriculum had been made after careful study of all major American and Canadian library school curricula. There was brief general discussion on the topics already heard.

"Working in a vacuum" was Mrs. Millie MacLaren's impression of her recent library school course, because she had had only two weeks' experience in library work previously. She suggested six months' or a year's training before the student went to library school. Mrs. Hart agreed that it should now be possible for students anywhere to obtain library experience first. The responsibility of the librarian in training prospective library school candidates, as opposed to casual student help, was discussed, and Miss Letts thought the candidate should be given a variety of tasks, interesting as well as routine.

Mrs. Marie Adams described the training of French librarians, in a very heavy course of the apprenticeship type. Students spend several hours a week in three classes of libraries--public, special and university. Main emphasis is on academic training, as in Britain.

Mount St. Vincent felt there should be a median course, said Sister Francis Dolores. Librarians were coming out of library school with high-sounding courses to their credit but no practical understanding. She felt there must be a philosophy, and there must be ability for practical work. A period of preliminary training might be desirable, but at present Mount St. Vincent did not require it, because in the past it had been found necessary to "untrain" students, a delicate point in professional ethics. As more and more trained librarians came into the field, this type of wrong training would cease.

A message from Sister Francis de Sales was relayed by wire recording. After welcoming the delegates and regretting her own absence, she outlined the growth of the Mount St. Vincent school. Miss Anita Hostetter of ALA had been encouraging, and had advised Mount St. Vincent to wait for ALA accreditation until their permanent quarters were established. The wartime inability to build, and then the disastrous 1951 fire had set back the MSV program. Meanwhile ALA had suspended accreditation activities, and advised Mount St. Vincent that accreditation would be delayed in the light of a "patent pending".

It is an error to say that there are only two library schools in Canada, Sister Francis de Sales said, for besides Toronto and McGill, and Mount St. Vincent, there are those at the Universities of Ottawa and Montreal. In view of the Massey Report, all were needed.

As to curriculum, she felt the American schools had a tendency to neglect practical work, and that the Canadian schools were much superior in curriculum. Mount St. Vincent had followed McGill and Toronto closely with emphasis on Canadian literature and history; constructive criticism and suggestions from Maritime librarians would be welcome. The American library schools appeared confused as to their own aims, so it was no wonder their graduates were often confused. According to them, the librarian is to be the salesman of democracy, occupational advisor, psychologist in public relations, arbiter of taste and culture, "I am Sir Oracle!" Yet by recent survey, 55% of the people of England were actively reading a book at the time, compared to 40% in Canada and 21% in the United States.

The greater aspect of library work should not be ignored--a broad cultural background should be part of a librarian's equipment--but a one-year course will not make a cultured person--culture is something that grows. Great prob-



lems faced libraries, and great responsibilities and opportunities offered to librarians; library work should attract topnotch people. Moreover, one could be a clever librarian without being a good teacher. At Mount St. Vincent, the library school staff will have teacher-training certificates. There is a real need for a library school in the Maritimes, and Sister Francis de Sales looked to MLA to furnish recruits for the school, and for constructive criticism.

#### Closing Business and Tour of Mount St. Vincent

Miss Ruby Wallace offered the facilities of Sydney for the 1953 conference, and her invitation was accepted with thanks. The new executive for 1952-53 was introduced:

President: Miss Dorothy Cullen, P.E.I. Libraries  
President-Elect and Vice-President for New Brunswick:

Mr. Maurice P. Boone, Legislative Library, Fredericton

Vice-President for Nova Scotia:

Miss Ruby Wallace, Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney

Vice-President for P.E.I.: Mr. William Ledwell, P.E.I. Libraries

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Evelyn Campbell, N. S. Research Foundation

Miss Cullen thanked the Association for their confidence in her, and said MLA has gone forward and completed several projects; she asked that topics for further study be suggested. The conference then adjourned, and after tea in the MSV children's room in the library school, delegates inspected the library and the entire impressive new building.

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#### NEWS NOTES FROM MARITIME LIBRARIES...

Miss Shirley Elliott of Truro sailed recently on the Franconia for a three-month pleasure trip to England.

Sister Francis de Sales, who had been confined to the Halifax Infirmary since April, has returned to Mount St. Vincent. MLA members knowing her tremendous energy will sympathize with her chafing under doctor's go-slow orders.

Miss Florence Whitby, 1952 graduate of Mount St. Vincent library school, is now assistant to the supervisor of branch libraries for the Cape Breton Regional Library.

Lists of duplicate periodicals for disposal have been issued recently by the University of New Brunswick Library and by the Nova Scotia Technical College Library.

Mrs. Marjorie E. McPhail joined the Atlantic Fisheries Experimental Station, Halifax, as librarian on May 1, replacing Miss Mary Kenney, who has retired.

Mr. Henry J. Arsenault, a 1952 graduate of the McGill library school, will take up duties on June 16 as librarian at the Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville. This joint library is used by the staffs of the Divisions of Plant Pathology, Chemistry, Entomology, Plant Protection Service and the Experimental Station proper, as well as by local offices of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.